on to the consumers. Indirect taxes are levied by the Central Government as well as State Governments. Such taxes include customs duties (on import of goods), excise duties (on production or manufacture of goods), service tax, central sales tax, State sales tax/VAT, etc.

(b) and (c) In India, the total burden of taxes on the consumers, as reflected by tax-GDP ratio, is lower compared to many other countries. However, multiplicity of taxes does cause inconvenience to the taxpayers. The Central as well as State Governments have been making efforts to simplify the tax system. For instance, with the introduction of State-level VAT, a number of taxes on purchase or sale of goods have been abolished/ replaced. The Government has already announced its intention to introduce an integrated Goods and Services Tax (GST) by 1st April, 2010, with the precise objective of replacing the multiple indirect taxes by a single tax, in line with international best practices.

Performance of public sectors

202. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of development in the country;

(b) whether it is all round development or lopsided development;

(c) whether it is a fact that the development is lopsided in rural parts in the wake of increasing suicidal deaths; and

(d) whether the development as a whole, is due to the goods performance of domestic private sectors while Government sectors fail everywhere except a few with too much of corruption and inefficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) During the Tenth Plan period (2002-07), the overall growth of the economy in terms of GDP at factor cost at constant 1999-2000 prices was 7.6 per cent per annum. Agriculture, industry and services sector grew at average rate of 2.3 per cent, 8.7 per cent, and 9.3 per cent, respectively. While the growth of industry and services sectors has been very good, agriculture has been showing low

and uneven growth. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, GDP growth is estimated to have gone up to 9.0 per cent and 9.2 per cent, respectively.

(d) The enabling macroeconomic environment and right set of policies by Government together with the improved performance by the private sector has contributed to overall development. As regards corruption, the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan entitled "Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth" has stressed on the need for good governance and transparency in the implementation of public programmes.

Funding of elementary education programmes

203. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds demanded by Government for funding of the elementary education programmes *viz.*, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, Teachers' Training and Adult Education for the current financial year *vis-a-vis* the actual allocations for each of these programmes, programme-wise;

(b) the details of education cess collections, actual *vis-a-vis* budget during the year;

(c) whether the criteria/pattern of funding these elementary education programmes have undergone revision during the year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of funds proposed for allocation by Ministry of Human Resource Development and the allocation approved for 2006-07 are as under: